

SOLDIER SIDES

The river flows by, dark and powerful.

LEGRAND

You're mad.

The doctor stares into the water, shakes his head.

SOLDIER

Take me for a fool, don't ya?

Legrand searches for the words.

LEGRAND

The good book.

Beat.

LEGRAND

Do you believe it?

The soldier stares back at him, as wounded inside as out.

LEGRAND

The Bibl-

SOLDIER

Yeah I know what you mean.

Beat.

SOLDIER

As much anyone I guess.

The doctor opens up to him. The boy, tense, shifts back.

LEGRAND

Well, think about those stories.  
They're pretty damn ridiculous,  
wouldn't you say?

He measures the doctor's eyes: they're sincere.

LEGRAND

Maybe sometimes things happen that  
don't make sense. Doesn't mean they  
didn't.

SOLDIER

Didn't what?

(CONTINUED)

LEGRAND

Happen.

The doctor hopes he buys it. The soldier's brow, tight and creased from anger begins to loosen.

SOLDIER

I can't.

He gets up, again fast for a cripple, swinging away. The doctor struggles to his feet.

He talks to the soldier as the latter marches on.

LEGRAND

You're discharged aren't you?

SOLDIER

It ain't that.

He stops to bark in the doctor's face.

SOLDIER

But I don't need remindin' anyhow.

He goes on, slamming the crutch with every step against the stone path.

LEGRAND

Well then what is it?

The young man can't go on. He can't keep it up. That gentleness from the song breaks through.

SOLDIER

I'm not a man. Not no more.

The doctor recognizes the pain in his eyes.

LEGRAND

Are you sure about that, boy?

The soldier looks on, helpless.

LEGRAND

Because I am a doctor. I know what happened as well as you... and I ain't.

SOLDIER

You ain't what?

The doctor: determined.

## SOLDIER'S SONG

William Taylor is an English folk song. It is sung many different ways. Please prepare to sing with these lyrics or another variation of the William Taylor song that you prefer. I suggest listening on Spotify to various versions.

## SOLDIER

William Taylor was a brisk young  
 sailor, He who courted a lady fair;  
 Bells were ringing, sailors  
 singing, As to church they did  
 repair. Thirty couple at the  
 wedding; All were dress'd in rich  
 array; 'Stead of William being  
 married, He was press'd and sent  
 away. She dress'd up in man's  
 apparel, Man's apparel she put on;  
 And she follow'd her true lover;  
 For to find him she is gone. Then  
 the Captain stepp'd up to her,  
 Asking her: What's brought you  
 here? I am come to seek my true  
 love, Whom I lately loved so dear.  
 If you've come to see your true  
 love, Tell me what his name may be.  
 O, his name is William Taylor, From  
 the Irish ranks came he. You rise  
 early tomorrow morning, You rise at  
 the break of day; There you'll see  
 your true love William Walking with  
 a lady gay. She rose early the very  
 next morning, She rose up at the  
 break of day; There she saw her  
 true love William; Walking with a  
 lady gay. Sword and pistol she then  
 order'd To be brought at her  
 command; And she shot her true love  
 William, With the bride on his  
 right arm.